Appl. No. 10/600,380
Amdt. dated January 26, 2007
Reply to Office Action of September 22, 2006

Remarks

The present amendment responds to the Official Action dated September 22, 2006. A petition for a two month extension of time and authorization to charge the two month extension fee of $450.00 to Deposit Account No. 50-1058 accompany this amendment. The Official Action rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) based on Tuohino U.S. Patent No. 7,027,423 (Tuohino). This sole ground of rejection is addressed below. Claims 1, 9 and 10 have been amended to be more clear and distinct. Claims 4-8, 13 and 14 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 15-17 have been added. Claims 1-3, 9-12 and 15-17 are presently pending.

The Art Rejections

As addressed in greater detail below, Tuohino does not support the Official Action's reading of it and the rejection based thereupon should be reconsidered and withdrawn. Further, the Applicants do not acquiesce in the analysis of Tuohino made by the Official Action and respectfully traverse the Official Action's analysis underlying its rejection.

While Tuohino is entitled "Routing A Call Between Different Types of Networks", it addresses a prior art arrangement shown in Fig. 1 in which a call is routed from a user or subscriber A of mobile terminal MS_A to a subscriber B that uses mobile terminal MS_B. In particular, calls are routed from A to B to C rather than directly from A to C when forwarding is required. See, Fig. 1 and col. 3, lines 46-49. In brief, this portion of Tuohino has little relevance to the claims as presently amended.

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The remainder of Tuohino addresses two specific approaches to addressing the purported needs of a subscriber having subscriptions in both the CS and packet switched (PS) domains. Tuohino col. 3, line 49 et seq. As stated at col. 4, lines 18-23, Tuohino's basic idea "is to devise a new way to functionally operate so that the normal HLR query in the circuit switched domain is bypassed and the call is routed to the IMS domain." According to a first embodiment, an identifier (RSI) is used, and according to the second embodiment, a Subscriber Location and Rerouting function (SLRF) changes the MSIDN number. Col. 4, lines 34-39. The end result is that "a called subscriber is first tried to be reached in the IMS domain where the subscriber is likely residing but if the subscriber has not been registered there, the call is returned back to the CS domain." As discussed further below, such operation does not teach and does not make obvious the method of claim 1 or the integrated location management apparatus of claim 9.

As presently amended, claim 1 addresses a general arrangement for call forwarding in which an integrated location management component receives a message "that the call is to be forwarded to a third network". The "call to the second network" is terminated, and the call is extended "from the first network through a second network interface to the third network". Tuohino does not teach and does not make obvious the claimed combination of steps as presently claimed.

Claim 9 addresses "integrated location management apparatus supporting inter-protocol call forwarding" comprising "means for obtaining a third call identifier from a third network" where the second and third networks have different call forwarding protocols. Tuohino does not teach and does not make obvious the presently claimed combination.

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To the contrary, Tuohino illustrates in both Figs. 2 and 3 an arrangement in which in phase 1, the exchange sends a message such as an Internal Address Message (IAM) containing the MSISDN (i.e. E.164) to the home number of the called party. Col. 5, lines 23-31; and col. 3, lines 55-61 (phases 1 and 2 are similar in both embodiments). In phase 2, a Send Routing Information (SRI) message is sent. In the embodiment of Fig. 2, in phase 3, routing status information tells the gateway mobile switching center (GMSC) that a routing message should be sent to try IMS domain where the called party is supposed to be registered. Col. 6, lines 5-19. In phase 4, the GMSC sends a routing message (IAM) to a PS network element responsible for exchanging signaling with the CS domain. Col. 6, lines 43-55.
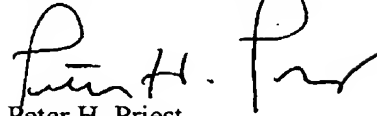
It appears that one of two things happen in Tuohino. Either a call goes from A to B to C as described in Tuohino's prior art discussion or the call can't be routed from A to B to C and consequently goes from A to B to D. Neither the presently claimed "extending the call from the first network through a second network interface to the third network" of claim 1 nor the details of the "integrated routine management apparatus" presently claimed by claim 9 are taught by Tuohino.

Conclusion

All of the presently pending claims, as amended, appearing to define over the applied references, withdrawal of the present rejection and prompt allowance are requested.

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